

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04074 291325Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----125390 291326Z /41
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3710

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4074

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV SY US PLO
SUBJ: UNSC RES 242 AND THE PALESTINIANS

REF: STATE 144669 AND PREVIOUS

1. PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM JUNE 28 TO REVIEW OUR EXCHANGES ON THIS ISSUE WITH FONMIN KHADDAM OVER PAST TWO WEEKS. HE SAID PRES. ASSAD HAD SENT HIM THE POINTS CONVEYED FROM OUR LAST MESSAGE (STATE 144669) WITH REQUEST FOR HIS ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. IF I COULD BRIEF HIM ON SEQUENCE OF MY MEETINGS WITH KHADDAM IT WOULD BE HELPFUL. I GAVE HIM A DETAILED READ-OUT, REFERRING TO REPORTING TELEGRAMS AS NECESSARY. HE TOOK NOTES.

2. DAOUDI CONFIRMED THAT ASSAD HAD SPOKEN TO ARAFAT ON BASIS THAT MODIFICATION OF RES 242 WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HE DID NOT THINK ASSAD HAD SEEN ARAFAT AGAIN, BUT WAS WAITING FOR HIS (DAOUDI'S) RECOMMENDATIONS. (BELIEVE ARAFAT CURRENTLY IN DAMASCUS FOR PLO EXCOM MEETING). I URGED ON DAOUDI THAT SYRIA NOT LEAVE ARAFAT WITH MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT MODIFICATION OF RESOLUTION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. THIS COULD BE POTENTIALLY DAMAGING FIRST OF ALL TO ARAFAT BUT ALSO TO SYRIA AND US AS WAYS WERE SOUGHT TO SOLVE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE. I ALSO URGED AGAIN THAT DISCUSSION

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BE KEPT STRICTLY BETWEEN PRESIDENT ASSAD AND ARAFAT.

3. DAOUDI HERE INTERJECTED THAT WE HAD INFORMED SADAT OF PROPOSAL AND NO ONE KNEW TO WHOM INSIDE OR OUTSIDE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP EGYPTIANS MIGHT BE TALKING. MY REJOINDER THAT ONLY SYRIA HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED DISCUSS MATTER WITH ARAFAT DID NOT APPEAR TO QUIET HIS

SUSPICIONS.

4. DAOUDI WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT THINK
IDEA WOULD WORK WITH PALESTINIANS SINCE THEY ALREADY ON
RECORD AS REJECTING 242. REPLIED I WAS NOT SO SURE AND RECALLED
THAT ARAFAT HAD MENTIONED TO A FOREIGN AMBASSADOR IN EARLY
APRIL THAT PNC HAD NOT REJECTED RES. 242 AS A WHOLE BUT
ONLY THE ASPECT OF IT CONCERNING PALESTINIAN REFUGEES
(DAMASCUS 2203). DAOUDI FOUND THIS INTERESTING AND ASKED
WHETHER ARAFAT HIMSELF, THEREFORE, MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE
ORIGIN OF THE IDEA. ANSWERED I DID NOT KNOW NOR COULD I
SAY WHETHER ARAFAT MIGHT HAVE INTENDED STATEMENT TO REACH U.S.
EARS BUT IT WAS SOME EVIDENCE THAT PALESTINIANS MIGHT BE ABLE
TO ACCEPT THE IDEA.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

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